



The CHARTER of the Governours of the  
GREY-COAT-HOSPITAL in *Totbill-Fields*, of  
the Royal Foundation of QUEEN ANNE.



WE, by the Grace of God, Queen of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all Christian People to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting; Whereas in or about the Month of January, in the Year of our Lord 1698, a Charity-School was Erected in the Parish of St. Margaret Westminster, (by the Name of, The Grey-Coat-School) for the Education of Poor Children in the Principles of the Christian Religion, Teaching to Read, and Instructing them in the Church Catechism, and Discipline of the Church of England, as by Law Established, and for Teaching to Write and Cast Accounts, and (when fit) Binding them Apprentices to honest Trades and Employments: Which said School was supported by the voluntary Subscriptions and Benevolences of Charitable Persons. And whereas the Persons who have acted as Trustees of the said School, having found Encouragement in their said Undertaking, and designing to Enlarge the said Charity, did in the Year 1701 take into their Care several other Poor Boys and Girls of the said Parish, and provide them, together with the other Poor Children of the said School, with Cloathing, Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging, and other Necessaries, in a large House, known at present by the Name of the Grey-Coat-Hospital, in or near Totbill-Fields, appointed to them by the Vestry of the said Parish Rent-free for that purpose: In which said Hospital all the said Children are not only Taught and Instructed, as abovementioned, but such of them as are Capable, are also kept to Work: as Spinning, Knitting, Sewing, and other Employments, to Inure them to honest Labor and Industry. Towards the Maintenance of which last mentioned Children, the Parish gives the usual Allowance of Six Shillings per Calendar Month for each Child, and Thirty Shillings a piece towards Binding them Apprentices: And the whole Charge of the said Undertaking, being upwards of Eight hundred Pounds per Annum, is made up by the Voluntary Subscriptions and Benevolences of Charitable Persons. And whereas we are credibly informed, That several Persons are willing to bestow Gifts and Legacies, and to settle Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, and Hereditaments, for making a more solid Foundation for the Support and Maintenance of the said Hospital: But in Regard the Trustees, who have the Care and Management thereof, are not Incorporated, they are not Persons capable in Law to Receive such Settlements, nor are well impowered to Sue for, Receive, or Recover any Gifts or Legacies which may be hereafter from time to time Bequeathed by Charitable Persons to the said Hospital, whereby the said Hospital is in Danger of losing such Gifts, Legacies, and Charitable Benevolences. And whereas We have been well assured, That if We would be Graciously pleased to Incorporate the Trustees of the said Hospital, now and for the Time being, it would greatly Encourage and Promote the said Undertaking.

I know ye therefore, That We, of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, have Willed, Ordained, Constituted and Appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, Do Will, Ordain, Constitute, Declare and Grant, That the Right Reverend Father in God, John Lord Bishop of Ely, the Reverend Nicholas Onley, Robert South, and George Smallridge, Doctors in Divinity; Our Trusty and Well-beloved James Vernon, Esq; of our Privy Council; William Lowndes, Thomas Frederick, Hugh Squier, Charles Twitty, Thomas Cross, James Vernon Junior, Thomas Addison, Thomas Railton, Tanner Arnold, John Chamberlayne, William Clayton, Lionell Herne, Lancelot Burton, Samuel Edwards, Thomas Baker, Samuel Edwyn, Esqs; Charles

Names of the  
Governours,

Name of the Corporation.

To have perpetual Succession.

May purchase Lands, &c. in Perpetuity, not exceeding 2000 l. per Ann. ultra Reprises.

And Estate for Lives, Goods, Chattels, &c. of any Value.

May grant, and lett Leases, not exceeding 41 Years of Lands, &c. in Possession.

In case no Fine be taken, the full Value to be reserved; and a Moiety at least if a Fine be taken.

May Sue and be Sued, &c.

May have a Common Seal, which they may alter at Pleasure.

On the 6th of January yearly, unless it be Sunday, and then on the Monday following, may choose a President, Treasurer, Auditors, and Secretary, &c.

If any of those so chosen happen to die, the Treasurer, Secretary, or any 3 Members, may at any Time summon the Society to meet to

Charles Rampaine, William Green, John Dive, Peter Walter, Henry Ballow, John Thurston, Henry Lloyd, Thomas Green, Gentlemen; John Clayton, Robert Cross, John England, Leonard Martin, Samuel Paul, and John Bedwell, Brewers; Capt. Thomas Morgan, Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Mr. Emery Arguis, Mr. Robert Coussins, Mr. Arthur Swift, Mr. Edward Boulte, Mr. James Eales, Mr. Thomas Yeomans, Mr. John Holmes, Mr. Thomas Wisdom, Mr. Simon Boulte, Mr. Mark Hall, Mr. John Wilkins, Mr. Richard Filer, Mr. Francis Mackreth, Mr. Henry Priest, and Mr. Samuel Michell, the present Subscribers and Benefactors to the said Hospital, and their Successors, to be Elected in manner as hereafter is directed, be, and shall for ever hereafter be, by virtue of these Presents, One Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of, The Governors of the Grey-Coat Hospital in Tothill-Fields, of the Royal Foundation of Queen ANNE: And them and their Successors, by the same Name, We do by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, Constitute and Declare to be One Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and in Law; and by the same Name they, and their Successors, shall and may have perpetual Succession.

II. And that they and their Successors, by that Name, shall and may for ever hereafter be Persons able and capable in the Law to Purchase, Have, Take, Receive, and Enjoy, to them and their Successors, Mannors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Annuities, and Hereditaments, of whatsoever Nature or Kind, in Fee and Perpetuity, not exceeding the yearly Value of Two Thousand Pounds, beyond Reprises; And also Estates for Lives and for Years, and all Manner of Goods, Chattels, and Things whatsoever, of what Nature or Value soever, for the better Support and Maintenance of such poor Children of the said Parish of St. Margaret Westminster, Taught and Instructed in Manner and Form as aforementioned; And to Give, Grant, Lett, and Demise, the Mannors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments whereof or wherein they shall have any Estate of Inheritance, or for Life, Lives, or Years as aforesaid, or any of them, by Lease or Leases for Term of Years, in Possession at the Time of Granting thereof, and not in Reversion, not exceeding the Term of One and Forty Years from the Time of Granting thereof; on which, in Case no Fine be taken, shall be Reserved the full Value: And in case a Fine be taken, shall be Reserved at least a Moiety of the full Value that the same shall reasonably and bona Fide be worth at the Time of such Demise.

III. And that by the Name aforesaid they shall and may be able to Sue, and be Sued; Plead and be Impleaded; Answer and be Answered unto; Defend and be Defended; in all Courts and Places whatsoever, of Us, our Heirs and Successors, in all Actions, Plaints, Matters and Demands whatsoever; And to Act and Do, in all Matters and Things relating to the said Corporation, in as ample Manner and Form, as any other our Leige Subjects, being Persons Able and Capable in the Law, or any other Body Politick or Corporate, in this our Realm of England, Lawfully may or can, Act or Do.

IV. And that the said Society, for ever hereafter, shall and may have a Common Seal for the Causes and Businells of them and their Successors; And that it shall and may be Lawful for them and their Successors to Change, Break, Alter, and make New the said Seal, from Time to Time, as they shall think best.

V. And for the better Execution of the Purposes aforesaid, We do Give and Grant, that they the said Society and their Successors for ever, shall and may upon the sixth Day of January in every Year, unless the same happen to be on a Sunday, and then on the Monday following, Meet at the said Hospital, where they or the major Part of them then present, shall choose a President, One or more Treasurers, Two or more Auditors, One Secretary, and such other Officers and Servants as shall be thought convenient, to serve in the said Offices respectively for One Year then next ensuing, and till others shall be chosen in their Places respectively, and to allow them such Salaries, or other Allowances, as the said Society, or the Major part of them present at any such Annual Meeting shall think reasonable.

VI. And if it shall happen that any of the said Persons so chosen, shall Die at any Time between the yearly Days of Election aforesaid, That then it shall and may be lawful to and for the Treasurer or Secretary for the Time being, or any Three or more of the Members of the said Corporation, to Issue Summons to the several Members of the said Society, to meet at the said Hospital, who, or the Major part of them present, have hereby Power to choose others in the Room or Place of such Person or Persons so Dead, to serve in such Office respectively until the Day of the next Annual Meeting hereby appoint-

ed for making new Election of Officers as aforesaid; At which Annual Meetings the Officer or Officers so put in to serve per interim, as aforesaid, may be continued, or not continued, according to the Direction of those who are to make the Annual Elections as aforesaid.

VII. And that the Members of the said Corporation, and their Successors, shall and may on the first Tuesday after Lady-Day, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas, yearly for ever, Elect such Persons to be Members of the said Corporation, as they, or the Major part of them then present, shall think beneficial to the Charitable Design of the said Corporation; which Members so elected shall be Members of the said Corporation, by virtue of these Presents, as fully as if their Names respectively were inserted to be Members thereof in and by this our Charter.

VIII. And our further Will and Pleasure is, That at the said Meetings on the said first Tuesdays after Lady-Day, Midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas yearly, and at no other Meetings of the said Society; the said Society, or the Major part of the Members thereof then present, shall and may Execute Leases for Years as aforesaid, and shall and may ordain and make Laws, Orders, and Constitutions for the well Government of the said Society; which Laws and Constitutions not being repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, shall and may be effectually observed and kept; And the Members to be present at such Quarterly Meetings, or the Major part of them then present, are hereby empowered from Time to Time to remove and displace any of the Officers beforementioned, or any other Officers and Servants belonging to the said Hospital, at their Will and Pleasure, and to put others into their Places from Time to Time, according to the best of their Judgments and Discretions.

IX. Provided always that any Five or more of the Members of the said Society for the Time being, upon Information that any Officer or Servant of the said Hospital hath misbehaved himself, shall have Power forthwith to give Notice for a General Meeting of all the Members, at which such Misbehaviour shall be Examined; and the Major part of the Members then present have hereby Power, if they see Cause, to dismiss such Officer or Officers, Servant or Servants, from his or their Office or Offices, Place or Places in the said Hospital, and to place others in his or their Places, although it be not a Quarterly Meeting of the said Members.

X. Provided always that no Act done in any of the said Quarterly Meetings shall be effectual and valid, unless seven or more Members of the said Corporation be present, and the major Part of those present be consenting thereunto.

XI. And We do likewise Grant unto the said Society, and their Successors, that they and their Successors, and the major part of such of them as shall be present at any quarterly Meeting of the said Society, shall have Power from Time to Time to depute such Person or Persons, as they shall think fit, to take Subscriptions, and to Gather and Collect such Monies within the said Parish, as shall by any Person or Persons be contributed for the Purposes aforesaid.

XII. And Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby further Grant unto the said Society, and their Successors, That they and their Successors shall and may, on Tuesday in every Week, for ever hereafter, or oftner if Occasion requires, meet at the said Hospital, and they or the major part of them then present, shall and may then and there transact any Business of the said Society, relating to the Receipts, Payments, and Accounts of their Monies, and the Expenditure thereof, for the charitable Purposes aforesaid, and make such Orders as shall be reasonable, and not repugnant to the By-Laws or Orders to be made at any such Yearly or Quarterly Meetings.

XIII. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, That the said Society shall cause fair and just Accompts in Writing to be kept of all Receipts, Payments, and Doings by them, their Officers and Agents respectively, in relation to the Premises, which shall be liable to the View and Inspection of any Subscriber or Benefactor upon Occasion; Which said Accompts shall on the sixth Day of January in every Year, or within fourteen Days after, be Examined, Audited, and Adjusted, and Subscribed by the Members present at such Meeting, or the major part of them.

XIV. And Lastly, Our Pleasure is, That these Our Letters Patents, or the Inrolment thereof, shall be good, firm, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to Our Royal Intentions herein before Declared, without any Fine to be paid in our Exchequer. In Witness whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. Witness Our Self at Westminster, the Nineteenth Day of April, in the Fifth Year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

COCK S.

The

choose Persons in the room of any of those so dying.

On the first Tuesday after Lady day, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas year-ly, may choose Members of the said Corporation.

And on the Tuesdays aforesaid may Execute Leases and make By-Laws.

And displace Officers & Servants at their pleasure.

If any Officer misbehaves himself, any 5 Members may give notice for a general Meeting, where such Misbehaviour being examined, they may dismiss him, if they see Cause, and choose others in his or their Places.

No Act to be valid at a Quarterly Meeting unless 7 Members be present, and the major part consenting.

May depute persons to take Subscriptions and collect Monies.

May meet on every Tuesday, or oftner, Weekly, and transact the Business relating to the Receipts & Payments of the Society.

And make Orders not repugnant to the yearly or quarterly By-Laws. Shall keep fair and just Accounts in Writing.

Which shall be liable to be viewed by any Subscriber or Benefactor, and audited on the 6th of January, or 14 Days after, yearly.

The Names of the present Members, who have been  
Elected since the Incorporating the Society.

**T**HE most Reverend John, Lord Arch-bishop of York; The Right Reverend Thomas, Lord Bishop of Rochester; The Right Reverend William, Lord Bishop of Lincoln; The Reverend Dr. Thomas Lynford; Henry Ferne, John Tucker, Thomas Boteler, Esqs; Major William Churchill, Roger Hudson Esq; Capt. Henry Snarey, Mr. John Churchill, Mr. Thomas Blissett, Mr. John Aynsworth, Capt. George Mortimer, Mr. Thomas Whitehead, Mr. James Martin, Mr. Richard Nurse, Sir John Humble Bart. Richard Powys, John Taylour, Christopher Tilton, Esqs; Mr. Nathaniel Collins, Mr. John Rampaine, Mr. Robert Jeffs, Mr. John Alford, Mr. Thomas Jett, Mr. Samuel Brown, Charles Battley Esq; Mr. John Barnes, The Right Honourable Henry Boyle Esq; Sir Robert Marsham, Thomas Medlycote Esq; Col. Henry Lee, Col. John Staples, Capt. Robert Gardener, Capt. John Willson, The Reverend Dr. Michael Evans, John Paine Esq; Mr. John Arnold Brewer, Capt. William Taylor, Sir Thomas Dunk, Mr. John Duck, Capt. Edward Tuffnall, Mr. Richard Brocklesby, Mr. Robert Fleetwood, Mr. Simon Chapman, Mr. Charles Lowe, Mr. Charles West Apothecary, Mr. John George, Mr. John Cranfield, Mr. Joachim Weaver, Mr. John Foster, Mr. George Roman, Mr. Robert Kidwell, Mr. John Manton, Mr. Francis Cairnes, Mr. Charles Farwell, Mr. Richard Farwell, Mr. Henry Roberts, The Right Reverend Father in God, Philip, Lord Bishop of St. Davids.